

MERIDIAN MONITOR

MERIDIAN LIBRARY SYSTEM

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2005

Your System Board:

Joan Davis
Maxine Erpelding
Gail Irwin
Penny Jeffrey
Mary Koch
Laura Martinsen
Kristina Owen
Michelle Self
Stacy Vogel



Meridian Library System
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Kearney Public Library & Information Center's 30th Birthday Celebration

During the week of July 25th -27th, the Kearney Public Library & Information Center celebrated thirty years in the current library building. The library building was built in 1974-1975. Opening in late June, 1975, the library was officially dedicated on July 27, 1975.

Activities were held for all ages. Activities scheduled for Monday, July 25th included birthday activities for children ages 4 to 10. Children did thumbprint art wishing the library a happy birthday, along with pin the tail on the donkey and other birthday activities. For two hours, young girls to women had their nails decorated. In the evening, five pet therapy animals, dogs and a cat were visited by youth and adults.

On July 26th, cards and games were available for senior citizens. In the evening, the library crowd enjoyed music by Tesdall and Adams. Also, youth and their parents could learn about BMX racing.

The final event was hosted by the Library Board of 1975. During this birthday celebration, about 250 people were served cake. The Library Board members were able to talk with patrons and the media about the building.

A banner wishing the library happy birthday remains on display. Patrons can continue to sign the banner.

Numerous displays were set up around the library on both floors to highlight the building in 1975 and today. The increase in circulation was highlighted. Assuming all books checked out in fiscal 1974-1975 were ten inches tall, laid end to end they would have stretched 35.71 miles. The books checked out in fiscal year 2003-2004 would stretch 57.65 miles.

Prior to the birthday celebration, the Kearney Hub ran a front page article on the increase in circulation and the upcoming birthday celebration. NTV and KHAS-TV both did segments on the celebration.

—Claire McKibben, Reference Librarian

LIBRARY TECHNICAL ASSISTANT CLASSES

Have you heard about library science courses that are now being offered through the Nebraska Community College system? You can either take the courses to enhance your education in various subject areas or obtain an associate of arts degree in Library Science Education with the Library Technical Assistant emphasis. This degree option has been developed through a partnership of the Nebraska Community College System, Nebraska Library Commission, and the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

The courses are mainly being made available through the online format so that a student anywhere in Nebraska will have access to this type of library science education. As of spring 2005, 62 students have participated so far in one or more of the classes that are being offered through the community colleges. Who has been signing up for these courses? Currently employed librarians, a hotel manager, school para-professionals, college library staff, school media specialists, and individuals that are interested in pursuing a library career are enrolling in the coursework.

This summer two additional courses were provided through Central Community College: **Reference Services in Library & Information Environments** and **Introduction to Children and Young Adult Services** with a total of 13 and 9 students registered respectively in each course. This fall, Northeast Community College will offer **Administration of Library and Information Environments** and Western Nebraska Community College will offer **Introduction to Technical Services—Cataloging**. Metropolitan Community College will also be providing the **Introduction to Library and Information Services** this fall. The **Capstone Practicum** course will be added to the offerings through Metropolitan Community College this coming January 2006.

Are you looking for financial assistance pertaining to library technical assistant coursework? Don't forget about the Library Technical Assistant Coursework Scholarship that has been established by the Nebraska Library Commission

for the purpose of supporting students pursuing community college level library science education. Information about the scholarship and application requirements is located at the following website address: <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/libdev/LTA/ltascholarship.htm>. We have awarded 24 scholarships so far. We will be reviewing our guidelines pertaining to the scholarship program later this summer. Be sure to also contact the financial aid departments at each community college for any other financial assistance that might be available through their institution.

You may have heard about the scholarships or any other information related to the library technical assistant courses through your regional library system newsletter and other library-related publications, the published course flyers from the individual community colleges or even electronically through email or a website. We are going to expand the coverage for promoting these courses by developing a booklet to be distributed through the community colleges as a part of student recruitment. The content of the booklet will be reviewed by members of the Library Technical Assistant Task Force. The current brochure of the library technical assistant coursework will be updated too in the near future for re-distribution. The Nebraska Community College Association (NCCA) will also host a section on their website devoted to statewide programs including the Library Technical Assistant option.

If you are interested in pursuing any of the library technical assistant courses contact your regional library system administrator or Pam Scott, Continuing Education Coordinator, Nebraska Library Commission via email: pscott@nlc.state.ne.us or via phone: 800-307-2665 for additional information.

Upcoming LE@D Courses: For this fall: Using Databases, Harnessing the Internet, Improving Co-Worker Relationships, Info-Age Etiquette, Grant Writing Basics, Nutrition Information for Librarians: Saturate Your Knowledge Not Your Fat Intake, and Evaluating Your Collection.

Starbucks Foundation Offers Funding for Youth Literacy Programs

Deadline: September 1 and March 1, annually
(Letters of Inquiry)

Through its Giving Voice program, the Starbucks Foundation (<http://www.starbucks.com/foundation/>), a philanthropic vehicle of the Starbucks Coffee Company, will fund programs for youth, ages 6-18, that integrate literacy with personal and civic action in the communities where they live.

The Starbucks Foundation invites Letters of Inquiry from qualifying organizations that work with underserved youth in one of two areas: 1) Arts & Literacy -- programs that innovatively address literacy and learning for the 21st century, provide high standards of excellence in mastering basic skills, and promote youth voices through a variety of venues; and 2) Environmental Literacy -- programs that offer place-based approaches to addressing environmental literacy and empower youth to be heroes for a sustainable environment in their own communities.

Grants range from \$5,000 to \$20,000.



Book of the Month

Stealing with Style by Emyl Jenkins is a debut mystery novel that is set in the world of antiques. Sterling Glass is an antiques appraiser in a small Virginia town. When called in, she evaluates antiques, searches their history and presents a report on their value. Things begin to go wrong when a diamond brooch is found in an oven mitt at a Salvation Army thrift store. This is the start of what proves to be an intricate web of scams and theft, both in Virginia and the heart of the antique world, New York. A second plot deals with an old man in New York trying to save his family heritage of Art Deco molds and figurines.

I enjoyed this book tremendously. I know nothing about antiques. One nice feature is that the

author opens each chapter with a question and answer about some kind of antique; this antique is then featured in the following chapter. The book has interesting characters and gives us a glimpse into a world unknown to most of us. A very nice debut novel and I hope to read more of these in the future.



Library Leadership Institute 2005

by Michelle Self, Shelton Township Library

I recently had the privilege of attending the 3rd annual N.L.L.I., and what an experience it was! Being new to the library profession and not really knowing what to expect in the week's activities, I was greatly hesitant at what was before me. My concerns quickly turned to excitement as I met with other library professionals and eagerly listened to our speakers, John and Becky. The week of activities were inspirational, insightful, intense, and sometimes even a little emotional. The mentors (each and every one of them), brought so much to the Institute, with their knowledge, concerns, and ideas. Listening to them daily, I couldn't help but get excited to return back to my library, with a new vision of what I hope my library can be. Going to the Institute with a questionable idea of my leadership skills, and leaving with a renewed commitment and new found confidence in myself and my library is exactly what I wanted to gain from my presence at the retreat. Meeting a "network" of library leaders to call upon for ideas, or simply for support, I felt was a huge bonus as well. I truly feel that in the months and years to come, the challenges thrown at us will be courageously fought with the knowledge we gained from the Institute and we will all be better because of it.



Michelle poses with her diploma!

**Meridian Library System
Board Meeting Minutes
June 2, 2005
Cather's Retreat, Red Cloud, NE**

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by President Kristina Owen at 1:25pm.

ROLL CALL: Board members answering roll call were: Joan Davis, Maxine Erpelding, Gail Irwin, Penny Jeffrey, Mary Koch, Laura Martinson, Kristina Owen, Michelle Self, and Stacy Vogel. Also present were Jean Hellman from Shelton Public Schools, Richard Miller from the NE Library Commission, Administrator Sharon Osenga, and Admin Asst. Christie Behle.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion by Joan, second by Stacy, to approve the agenda and previous minutes. Motion carried.

YEAR IN REVIEW: System Administrator Sharon Osenga presented her annual report.

Rotating Sets: The 10 Audio Book sets have rotated approximately 4 times each this year. The Accu-Cut die cut machines and dies also rotate monthly with some openings still available for 2006. Golden Sowers were only out about 3 times this year so this can be cut from the budget for next year.

Continuing Education: Summer Reading Program and the Winter Workshop were Continuing Education this past year.

Workshops: MLS is co-sponsoring NEMA Institute on June 8th. Sharon will be teaching a Planning Workshop for Republican Valley Library System in August. Basic Skills classes will be held this fall. Bricks & Boards will be held on June 13 with exhibits, presentations and architects. Workshop flyers are available on the website.

Grants: Four grants were awarded this year. Michelle Self is planning to attend Leadership Institute.

Newsletter: Printing the newsletter ourselves is working well and providing a cost savings. The newsletter is also available on the website.

Professional Materials: Professional materials and book sets are being requested more the last few months. Rotating journals may be cut back if needed in the next budget.

Membership Directory: We will be working on updating the Membership Directory this summer and having that current information on the website.

NLC REPORT: Richard Miller shared information from the Nebraska Library Commission. Two Digitization Workshops will be held this summer. Open Meetings Law workshop will be held in three locations this summer. An advertisement for Summer Reading Program is available on computer to be used for radio and television. Continuing education and training grants are available. Republican Valley Library System's new administrator is Sherry Houston. Dates for Data Base Road Shows and Library Science courses are listed on the Commission website.

SYSTEM BUSINESS:

FINANCIAL: Financial reports were distributed to board members. Maxine Erpelding moved to approve the treasurer's report and the bills for April and May, second by Penny Jeffrey. Unanimous roll call vote. Motion carried. A budget for next year will be developed after receiving budget information from the NE Library Commission.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: All three officers need to be elected because all have served 2 years. Kristina Owen nominated Gail Irwin for President, second by Maxine Erpelding. Voice vote, unanimously approved.

Stacy Vogel nominated Penny Jeffrey for Vice-President, second by Gail Irwin. Voice vote, unanimously approved. Joan Davis nominated Mary Koch for Secretary-Treasurer, second by Penny Jeffrey. Voice vote, unanimously approved.

NEXT MEETING: The next board meeting is scheduled for 10:00 Friday August 5th at Burwell Public Library. The budget will need to be approved at that meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: Kristina Owen adjourned the meeting at 2:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Christie Behle
Meridian Library System Administrative Assistant

Board Meeting Minutes
August 5, 2005
Garfield County Library, Burwell

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 10:15 am by President Gail Irwin.

ROLL CALL: Board members answering roll call were: Darlene Catlin substituting for Joan Davis, Gail Irwin, Mary Koch, Penny Jeffrey, Maxine Erpelding, Kristina Owen, and Michelle Self. Also present were Administrator Sharon Osenga and Administrative Assistant Christie Behle.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: A report from Richard Miller at the NE Library Commission and the System Plan were added to the agenda. Motion by Penny Jeffrey, second by Maxine Erpelding, to approve the agenda with these additions. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES: With no additions or corrections, Penny Jeffrey moved the minutes be approved as mailed, second by Michelle. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE: A Thank You note was circulated from the NE Library Commission for Sharon setting up the Connect training session in April.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Mary Koch moved to approve the treasurer's report and the bills for June and July, second by Penny Jeffrey. Roll call vote unanimous. Motion carried.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:
See Administrator's Report.

SYSTEM BUSINESS:

Budget: Some cuts were made to the budget. The System received a 3% increase from the commission. Carryover and money from savings were used to balance a budget. Cuts were made to afford financing of a car. Changes made include: decrease Misc., increase audit, cut supplies and promotional supplies, cut 2 Juvenile Grants rather than workshops, cut Professional Materials, cut scholarships, increase car for payments, increase health insurance. For administration, wages and taxes were increased for a 3% increase. Motion by Maxine Erpelding, second by Penny Jeffrey, to approve budget as presented. Roll call vote unanimous. Motion carried.

System Car: Board packets included a sample of a bid form to sell the system car. The plan is to advertise in newsletter and other systems with bids due Sept 20th to avoid having to pay another years license. Motion by Kristina Owen, second by Mary Koch, to approve the form with low blue book value at that time & mileage. Roll call vote unanimous. Motion by Darlene Catlin, second by Maxine Erpelding, to approve the process of selling as 1) bid, if car does not sell then: 2) list in newspaper for 1 week and 3) trade in. Roll call vote unanimous. Motion by Mary Koch, second by Michelle Self, to not exceed \$25,000 for the car. Voice vote unanimous. Motion carried.

Board meetings: A proposed schedule for board meetings for the coming year was discussed. Propose canceling fall meeting, scheduling conference call in January, spring meeting in Lexington at the new library. Discussing grants on conference call did not work well, so meeting in January in person for that reason—January meeting date TBA. Motion by Gail Irwin to approve the meeting schedule as in the agenda. Motion died for lack of second. Amended motion by Michelle Self, second by Kristina Owen, to meet as the following: cancel the fall meeting, meet in January TBA, spring meeting at Lexington's new library. Motion approved.

2005-2007 System Plan: Sharon distributed the proposed plan for board review. The Board revised the mission statement. See plan for changes. Motion by Penny Jeffrey, second by Mary Koch, to approve system plan with changes. Vote unanimous. Motion carried.

Commission Report: A report was faxed from Richard listing upcoming conferences.

Other news: Ainsworth Public Library will be receiving an autographed bookplate of the new Harry Potter book from Scholastic. One was awarded per state.

Motion to adjourn by Kristina Owen, second by Darlene Catlin. Next meeting to be arranged in January.

Respectfully submitted,
Christie Behle, Administrative Assistant

Meridian Library System Car for Sale

The Meridian Library System is accepting bids for an automobile as described below. This car will be sold as is, with no warranty, to the highest bidder. Terms of sale are cash. The car may be inspected at the System Office, 3519 Second Avenue, Suite B, Kearney, NE 68847 by appointment only. Telephone: (800) 657-2192 or (308) 234-2087.

Sealed bids will be accepted by mail or in person and must be received in the System Office no later than September 15, 2005. Successful bidder will be notified by September 20, 2005. In the case of two equal bids, the bid received on the earliest date will be accepted. There are no restrictions on who may bid on this equipment.

To bid on this automobile:

1. Indicate bid price.
2. Complete the bidder information (see below)
3. Mail or deliver completed form (or copy) to:

Meridian Library System,
3519 Second Avenue, Suite B
Kearney NE 68847

Description: 2001 Volkswagen Jetta GLX; 2.8L, 174 hp, 6-cylinder, fuel injected engine; front wheel drive; power steering; 16" alloy wheels w/ locks; ABS, daytime running lights; front and side airbags; adjustable steering column, A/C; cruise control; traction control; power package; sunroof; rain sensor wipers; heated power seats; 4 speed automatic transmission. Dark blue exterior; black leather interior w/ wood accents. Mileage: 61,000

Bid must be at or above low blue book value of \$10,600

Total Bid: \$_____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Date: _____

Successful bidder must pay for and pick up the equipment within 30 days of notification of acceptance of bid.



*NLA/NEMA 2005 Fall Conference
September 28-30, 2005
Cornhusker Hotel, Lincoln*

*Here are two Sessions you
won't want to miss*

Sponsored by the College and University Section and the Nebraska Regional Library Systems

Friday morning sessions (8-8:50 am and 9:10-10:00 am) will feature Constance Steinkuehler, a popular presenter and writer on gamers and gaming. Her first session will deal generally about this phenomenon and her second session will deal with the subject from the point of view of the library. Ms. Steinkuehler is a researcher at the University of Wisconsin and writer online for *Joystick 201* and *Terra Nova*. The April 15, 2005, issue of *Library Journal* contained an article "Meet the Gamers," that she co-authored with Kurt Squire. She also presented at an OCLC Symposium at ALA Midwinter this year.

Excerpts from the article "Meet the Gamers"

Why pay attention to games? For starters, games are the "medium of choice" for many, with broad participation among the 30 and under population.



.....game cultures promote various types of information literacy, develop information seeking habits and production practices (like writing), and require good, old-fashioned research skills, albeit using a wide spectrum of content. In short, librarians can't afford to ignore gamers.

NLA/NEMA Award Banquet & Post-Banquet Dance

Thursday September 29th, 2005
6:30 p.m.—Until you can't dance anymore

"I cannot call to mind a single instance where I have ever been irreverent, except toward the things which were sacred to other people." — Mark Twain

With two books on ALA's list of Most Frequently Challenged Books, Mark Twain seems an obvious choice to speak at a library banquet during Banned Books Week. The great American Humorist

mostly enjoyed the publicity that banning one of his books provided him, saying that more novels would be sold as people "read it, out of curiosity, instead of merely intending to do so." He turned to lecturing as a method of making money and in 1867 the New York Times reported that "Mr. Twain's style is a quaint one, both in manner and method, and throughout his discourse he managed to keep on the right side of his audience and frequently convulsed it with hearty laughter." Listen to **Wally Seiler**, as Twain, present some of Twain's best-loved writings as they might have been heard on the lecture circuit.

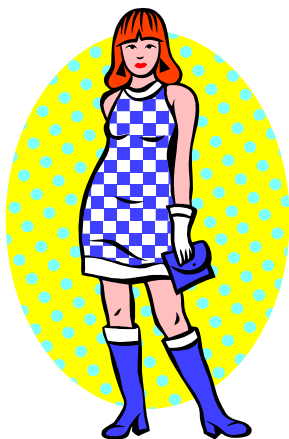


The Nebraska Humanities Council (NHC) provides major funding for this program. The NHC receives support from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Nebraska State Legislature, the Nebraska Cultural Endowment, and private donations.



Immediately following the banquet . . .

LOVE TO DANCE



These boots were made
for dancing!

**Break out your Nehru jackets
and go-go boots!**

**And prepare yourselves to dance the night away to
the boss sounds of the sixties!**

Whether you have a duck tail, a flat top or long hair you'll be jazzed to hear Jimi, Aretha, Peter, Paul, and Mary, the Beach Boys, the Beatles, and the Grateful Dead.

The library band, the BookEnds, not yet a banned band, will be making an appearance as well.

It'll be outta sight! You dig?

Sponsored by
Davidson Titles, Inc.



ROAD TRIP 2005

**Okay, this time you will have to sing
"We'll be coming around the mountain!"**

Join your colleagues for the second annual bus trip to Mountain Plains Library Association's 2005 Conference in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. The Conference is October 12-15, the bus would leave from Nebraska on October 11th and arrive back on the 16th. Like last year, the bus will start in Omaha and go along I-80 picking up riders. We had 16

riders last time. Use the bus trip to network with your peers, catch up on your sleep, finish that book, or watch a movie. But most of all, use the bus to get to one of the favorite regional conferences for **FREE!** That's right, thanks to a grant* from the Nebraska Library Commission, there will be no cost for the bus ride. There will be an overnight stay in Cheyenne on the return trip (Jackson Hole *is* a ways away), the cost of which, approximately \$65, the rider is responsible for, along with the conference lodging and registration expenses.

Positive comments about the 2004 bus trip:

"It gives you such an opportunity to process information from the conference on the way home. I would love to do another trip like this."

"I arrived at the conference rested and refreshed, instead of tired of traveling. It was great. I highly recommend it to all my colleagues."

"The bus trip was a valuable part of the conference experience. Networking with peers is always valuable, and there were people on the bus that I wouldn't normally run into otherwise."



And comments about the MPLA Conference:

"Because of our similarities of land, population (or lack thereof), funding and distances many of our issues are the same. There is a certain camaraderie among the librarians in the MPLA region — they are always willing to share, commiserate or add to a fantastic idea that is just simmering."

"It always is beneficial knowing we are not an island, and connecting with resources in other states so that we don't have to start from scratch on common issues of concern."

Sign up deadline: September 30th.

Contact Jenni Puchalla, 5730 R St., Ste. C-1, Lincoln, NE 68505
jennip@alltel.net or 800-288-6063/467-6188

*This project was supported in part by the Library Services and Technology Act, administered by the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services and granted by the Nebraska Library Commission.

**If space permits, each rider may bring a non-library affiliated guest, who, according to grant stipulations, would be required to pay \$100.

DRAGONS, DREAMS AND DARING DEEDS—SUMMER READING PROGRAM 2005



Four libraries in North Central Nebraska teamed together to bring Magician, Rob Holladay, from Tulsa, Oklahoma to present his Dragons, Dreams and Daring Deeds magic show. Performances were presented in Atkinson, Bassett, Springview and Ainsworth on Monday, July 18th and Tuesday July 19th. Rob specializes in education programs that inspire, motivate and capture the imagination. The 45-minute program included music, magical illusions, puppetry, comedy, story-telling and tons of audience participation. Students joined Rob and friends on a magical journey back in time to learn about dragons, knights and dreams that made them so great and a time when getting a "Good Knights Sleep" had a different meaning than it does today.

Evelyn Ost, Director of the Rock County Public Library, Bassett, wanted to provide students with a special program this summer. Since libraries can save dollars when performances are scheduled at other libraries in the area, she invited other libraries in the area to participate. The four libraries were able to save \$100 for each performance by working together.



CARING FOR THE MIND @your library®



2005 Preconference

Sponsored by
Lincoln Health Sciences Library Group
National Network of Libraries of Medicine
NLA Paraprofessional Section
NLA Public Library Section
NLA Special & Institutional Section

September 28, 2005
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Cornhusker Hotel, Lincoln

“Because of stigma with mental illness, many persons with mental illness may be unwilling to pursue formal treatment (medication, therapy) for their illness, but more likely to pursue informal treatments (support groups, bibliotherapy). This is where the librarian can be helpful. By having a well rounded mental health collection which provides persons with mental illness with knowledge based information to enhance management of their illness which are often chronic, being sensitive to the stigma that comes with mental illness during the reference interview, the librarian can enhance the quality of life of persons with mental illness even if just for a few moments.”

—Caring for the Mind: Providing Reference Services for
Mental Health Information, 1/26/05 Class Script

- 9 a.m.—Health and Human Services (HHS) will discuss Nebraska’s behavioral health reform plan, the goal of which is to return patients to their communities, and the role libraries can fulfill providing local resources.
- 9:30 a.m.—Tim Vorm Special Needs Coordinator from Community Mental Health Center will review behavior management issues that can arise in public settings with patrons.
- 10:30 a.m.—Panel Discussion on Behavior Management — library staff along with mental health professionals: Gayle Resh, recreational therapist, Lincoln Regional Center; Rayma Shrader, librarian, Lincoln City Libraries; Dr. Will Spaulding, psychologist, Lincoln Regional Center; Pat Talbot, consumer advocate, Community Mental Health Center. Joe Wright— officer, Lincoln Police Department.
- 1 p.m.—Collection Development — Roxanne Cox, Consumer Health Information Resource Services (CHIRS) program coordinator, helps you complete your collection and Reference Interview-what questions should you ask and what to do with the answers.
- 2:15 p.m.—Internet Mental Health Resources — National Network of Libraries of Medicine’s Marty Magee will show you the best sources on the web.

Intellectual Freedom: What Does It Have to do With Me and My Library?

"Intellectual Freedom is the right of every individual to both seek and receive information from all points of view without restriction." (ALA Intellectual Freedom Office.) Doesn't that sound central to every library and every librarian?

Are you ready for requests to withdraw material from your collection, or requests for information about what your users have read?

NLA's Intellectual Freedom Committee is working to make more people aware of the issues, and to help them be prepared if and when questions arise. Two ways we are doing this are a newly revised Intellectual Freedom Manual and a panel discussion on intellectual freedom at the NLA Conference this fall.

A public librarian, a school librarian, and an academic librarian will talk about being prepared on intellectual freedom issues when NLA meets in Lincoln in September, and we hope you'll find it of value.

The new edition of the Intellectual Freedom Manual was revised by NLA's Intellectual Freedom Committee last year and is available online at www.nlc.state.ne.us/freedom/intellectfree.html.

Before the concerned citizens appear at your door, telling you they want you to withdraw something from your collection, or the FBI asks for your check-out records, you should read this Manual and follow its suggestions. It includes the following sections: a checklist of questions on how prepared you are to handle censorship issues; a list of records which may be withheld from the public (but may be subpoenaed by the authorities); creating a mission statement and a materials selection policy; how to handle reconsideration requests (with a sample form from ALA and a procedure to follow); links to various statements (The Library Bill of Rights, ALA's Freedom to Read, View, and Access Electronic Information statements, and a Guide to the USA PATRIOT Act); and finally a list of contacts-addresses and phone numbers of the regional library systems, the Nebraska Library Commission, and NLA-which may be able to offer advice or help.

I hope we'll see you at the panel discussion in September!

Bob Boyce, Lincoln City Libraries, for the NLA Intellectual Freedom Committee.



Attention Trustees: Are you TUF enough? Mark these dates on your calendar to attend the NLA fall conference, September 29-30, 2005, at the Marriott/Cornhusker Hotel, in Lincoln.

The Trustee, Users and Friends Section (TUFS) of the Nebraska Library Association is offering some exciting programs of particular interest to board members at the fall conference. They are designed to help you puzzle through some questions that you may have encountered in your service on the library board.

Thursday, September 29 – *You mean we owe sales tax?; 8:30-9:20

How about those services you charge for?

*How to handle raffles; 9:40-10:30

Raffles help you raise \$\$\$\$. Do it right.

*What's your ethics IQ; 1:50-2:40

Explore conflict of interest, open meetings, personnel issues, privacy issues, to mention a few.

Friday, September 30 –

*Meet the Nebraska League of Municipalities. 8:00-8:50

How they play a role in your community and why you should care.

*Trustee Luncheon; 12:00-1:30. Meet your TUFS officers and the Trustee Citation Award winner. Sally Gardner Reed, Executive Director of Friends of Library, USA will be a speaker.

*Keynote speaker will follow the luncheon.

There is a full schedule of sessions on both days, so your time will be well spent.

Please plan to attend both days, or at least one day, of the conference and see what your fellow board members are up to.

10th Annual Plum Creek Children's Literacy Festival Features
Janet Stevens, Susan Crummel, and Pam Munoz Ryan
September 22-24, 2005, at Concordia University in Seward, Nebraska.

The three-day event is designed to foster interaction between nationally-acclaimed authors/illustrators and the children and adults of Nebraska. Thursday, September 22nd, is designated as Children's Day for the Seward schools. Friday the 23rd is Children's Day for commuting children. Children attend free of charge but pre-registration is required. Saturday the 24th has been set aside as Adults' Day and will feature an author luncheon by Janet Stevens and her sister Susan Crummel, access to the other major presenters, and more than 13 literacy-related sectionals led by professors and dedicated practitioners, including Lois Stover, NCTE speaker. The sectionals will be of interest for teachers of grades K-12, administrators, care-givers, and the general public. A complete listing of sectional topics and leaders is included in the official registration brochure, available on the web in June.

The 2005 festival features major presenters who appeal to teachers of Pre-K-secondary, as well as the general public. Janet Stevens, author and illustrator of *Tops and Bottoms*, will return to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the festival. Janet's sister, Susan Crummel, will feature books such as *Big Dog* and *The Dish Ran Away with the Spoon*. Pam Munoz Ryan portrays strong characters with values in books such as *Esperanza Rising* and *Riding Freedom*. Adventurer Elisa Carbone, author of *Storm Warriors*, will captivate audiences with her books for young adults. Storytelling, puppetry, and music will be central to W. Nikola-Lisa's performance; Nikola-Lisa is known for *Bein' With You this Way*. The audience will be entertained with the dynamic presentation abilities of Stephen Swinburne, noted informational text writer.

For complete information and the official registration brochure, go to www.cune.edu <<http://www.cune.edu>> and click on Plum Creek. Registrations should be printed off and mailed via regular mail. The light green brochure will be mailed to all schools in August. For information regarding one hour of graduate credit, CEUs, or a staff registration contact Mrs. Vikki Gremel, assistant festival director, at Plumcreek@cune.edu.

COMMUNITY GRANTS FROM DOLLAR GENERAL:

Dollar General's community grants program provides support for non-profit organizations committed to the advancement of youth literacy initiatives. We believe this focus area is one of the primary keys to drop out prevention and addresses some of the greatest challenges students face in our 30 state market area. If you are interested in applying for a community grant; please review our guidelines, print the community grants application form and submit your request prior to one of the deadlines listed below.

Submission Deadlines	Award Announcements
March 5th	March 30th
June 5th	June 30th
September 5th	September 30th
December 5th	December 30th

For complete details: <http://www.dollargeneral.com/community/communityinvestments.aspx>

WEB SITES OF THE MONTH

Creature Feature: Emperor Penguins: Information about emperor penguins, "the largest of the 17 species, or kinds, of penguins, ... [which] spend their entire lives on the cold Antarctic ice and in its waters." Features facts, a map, audio and video clips, and links to related sites. From the National Geographic site for children.

http://www.nationalgeographic.com/kids/creature_feature/0101/penguins.html

The Family Handyman Magazine: Features selected articles from the print magazine of the same name (published by Reader's Digest) on do-it-yourself home improvement projects. Covers repairs (such as toilets, clogged drains, mold, and peeling paint), interior and exterior projects (such as painting, deck-building, and shelving and storage), and tools and skills. Also includes a "Handy Hints and Great Goofs" section.

<http://www.rd.com/familyhandyman/>

Harry Potter: This fun site for fans of the Harry Potter books by J. K. Rowling includes information on the series, schedules of book release parties in the U.S., interviews with the author, a discussion forum for comments, pronunciation guide, glossary, trivia game, and other recommended titles. From Scholastic, the American publisher of the books.

<http://www.scholastic.com/harrypotter>

Acronyma: This search engine features entries for over 450,000 acronyms and abbreviations. Searchable by word (words must be typed in the correct order) or by acronym. Also includes acronyms in Spanish, French, and other languages. Provides an option to submit acronyms. From Esus, a company that provides Java support and services.

<http://www.acronyma.com/>

The Boy King Returns: Tutankhamun and the Golden Age of the Pharaohs: "Learn about the

new King Tut exhibition opening in June 2005 that will tour U.S. museums for 27 months, [and] view a gallery of artifacts on display." The "Unraveling the Mysteries" section includes images of Tut's tomb, CT scan imagery of the interior of the King Tut mummy, and images of the many layers of shrines and coffins in which King Tut was entombed. Also includes links to related articles. From the National Geographic Society.

<http://magma.nationalgeographic.com/ngm/tut/>

SmallTownPapers: This site provides access to scanned images of recent issues of dozens of small town newspapers from throughout the United States. "Newspapers are updated periodically, 2-3 weeks after publication." The site also includes a searchable archive (of articles, photos, and advertisements), which covers different periods for each paper, some as far back as the 1890s. Access to the archives requires free registration.

<http://www.smalltownpapers.com>

The Murder of Emmett Till: Companion to a Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) American Experience program about the 1955 murder of a northern black teenager after he whistled at a white woman in Mississippi. "Till's death was a spark that helped mobilize the civil rights movement." The site features a timeline, information about people and events (such as lynching in the United States), and related material. Also includes a transcript, teacher's guide, a bibliography, and links to related sites.

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/till/>

"10th Planet" Discovered: Article about the July 2005 discovery of "a new planet in the outer solar system. ... The planet, which hasn't been officially named yet ... [is located] more or less in the Kuiper Belt, a dark realm beyond Neptune where thousands of small icy bodies orbit the sun." Includes photos, an artist's concept of the planet, and audio of the story. From the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2005/29jul_planetx.htm

Medicare: The Official U.S. Government Site for People With Medicare: The site provides databases for comparing nursing homes, Medicare plans and providers, dialysis centers, hospitals, home health agencies, and health plan options. Explains eligibility, what Medicare covers, prescription drug programs, and billing. Also provides contact information and links, a glossary, a directory of medical equipment suppliers, and information about the Medicare Prescription Drug Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003. Some material available in other languages.

<http://www.medicare.gov/>

Spam Email: Harvesting Your Email Address: Information for consumers and businesses about understanding and reducing "spam" (unsolicited commercial email messages), including explanations of scams, chain emails, and email "harvesting" (the collection of "email addresses from web pages, newsgroups, chat rooms, and other online destinations"). Businesses will find instructions for securing their email servers, and regulations regarding responsibilities for honoring "remove me" requests. From the Federal Trade Commission (FTC).

<http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/conline/edcams/spam/>

U.S. Census Bureau Facts for Features: Labor Day: Facts and statistics about Labor Day. Topics include the national workforce, pay, earnings, labor union affiliation, health insurance, lengths of commutes, the 10 most common jobs, and more. From the U.S. Census Bureau.

http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/facts_for_features_special_editions/002264.

U.S. Census Bureau Facts for Features: Grandparents Day: To celebrate Grandparents Day (the first Sunday after Labor Day), the U.S. Census Bureau offers facts and statistics regarding grandparents, grandchildren, caregivers, multigenerational families, and more. The site

includes a brief history of this holiday.

http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/facts_for_features_special_editions/002319.html

Votes for Women: 75 Years of Women's Votes: Companion to an exhibit at the Women's Library (London) featuring posters, photos, banners, and other art of the women's suffrage movement. The site, which is aimed at young people aged 14-18, provides profiles of women involved in the suffrage movement and of "inspiring" women (such as Joan of Arc and Queen Elizabeth I), information about current issues facing women, a women's suffrage timeline, activism ideas, and related links.

<http://www.votesforwomen.org.uk/>

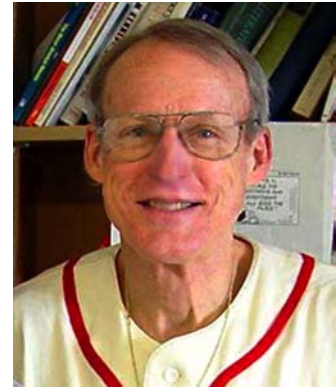
International Reading Association: Choices Booklists: Each year "thousands of children, young adults, teachers, and librarians ... select their favorite recently published books to be included in the Choices annotated booklists" published by the International Reading Association and the Children's Book Council. These annotated lists include Children's Choices, Teachers' Choices, and Young Adults' Choices. This site features these lists back to 1998, book selection procedures, and information on how to become involved in the selection process.

<http://www.reading.org/resources/tools/choices.html>

Who Reads What? Celebrity Reading List: Want to know what famous people are reading? The Gardiner Public Library in Maine has been querying celebrities each year since 1988. This site lists the books, indexed by name and year, with comments from hundreds of celebrities. Sponsored by Gale Research.

<http://www.gpl.lib.me.us/wrw.htm>

North Platte Literary Festival & North Platte Community College
Presents
MARSHALL COOK



DATE: Saturday, September 17th, 2005

Creativity Workshop 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Mystery Writing Workshop 1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

LOCATION: North Platte Community College South Campus
601 West State Farm Road, North Platte, NE 69101

COST: **\$20: How To Use *All Your Creativity*:** You're creative-wondrously so! But you may not be using all of that marvelous creative potential. In this workshop, you'll prove to yourself that you're a creative dynamo as we abolish the myth of the "creative personality." We'll attack the fears that keep us from using our creative powers, learn to cultivate, receive, and nurture inspirations, and defeat blocks (writer's or otherwise) forever. You really can be creative on demand, on a deadline, and when you don't feel inspired. Lots of exercises for lots of learning and fun.

\$20: How To Put The Mystery Into Your Writing: Who knows what evil lurks...

Whether you're writing your own who-done-it or just like reading mysteries, you'll enjoy exploring the myriad mysteries of master enigma makers.

Learn:

- how to hide clues in plain sight
- why detectives do so many dumb things
- how to create the perfect sleuth
- why the dead body is the second-or maybe the third-most important character in a murder mystery
- how to set the reader up for the double 'Oh!' reaction
- who *really* wrote all those Hardy Boys and Nancy Drew books...
- and much more.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Marshall J. Cook, professor of journalism at the University of Wisconsin and editor of the newsletter *Creativity Connection*, is to be the main speaker at the Third Annual North Platte Literary Festival. Marshall has appeared on Oprah, is a frequent speaker at conferences nationwide and organizes an annual writer's institute. Cook has published articles and short stories in hundreds of national magazines. He's a columnist for *ByLine*, a magazine for writers. His 23 published books include works on creativity, how-to write, time management, baseball and murder. Besides being a passionate minor league baseball fan, Marshall likes to drive the back roads and eat in small town cafes.

Sign up for the morning session (\$20.00), the afternoon presentation (\$20.00) or both (\$35.00).

Call North Platte Community College now (308-535-3714) to pre-register.

.....(Please detach & mail).....

Marshall Cook Workshop Registration Form

Name: _____ Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Day Phone: _____ Evening Phone: _____

Please check session(s) attending:

? Morning 20.00

? Afternoon .. 20.00

? Both 35.00

? Lunch 7.50

Please make checks payable to NPCC and mail this form to:
NPCC – Community Services Office
1101 Halligan Drive
North Platte, NE 69101

If you are a person with a disability and require an accommodation while attending this seminar, please contact the Community Services Office at (308) 535-3600 or (800) 658-4308 ext 3814 or 3815 for arrangements.



On or around **Sunday, September 11, 2005**, people all over the world will come together in public places like libraries to share ideas that matter. Neighbors will join to participate in public forums, performances, and other creative expressions about democracy, citizenship, and freedom. Libraries are perfect places to connect and engage people: They are free, public, and located around the world. *Participation is free. Please visit:*

www.theseptemberproject.org

SEE participating libraries; SHARE event ideas; and SIGN UP your library

Not in session? Closed on Sundays?

Many libraries are planning events on the weekend of September 11 and throughout the month of September. Some academic and school libraries are presenting displays and holding events

What can your library do?

Libraries and community members are organizing events as diverse as the communities they serve. Here are some programs communities across the world are planning:

Public Libraries

creative civic lessons

Display historical documents like statements of human rights from around the world.

film viewings

Show a short film on current issues. Invite a panel of experts to spark discussion.

essay contests

Ask people young and old to consider how they would improve democracy.

interfaith discussions

Invite interfaith groups to present ideas about issues that divide us and consider paths to solving them collectively.

school projects

Invite students to lead discussions on topics they learned in school. Ask young children to draw pictures of freedom.

Academic Libraries

displays

Teach youngsters about the Bill of Rights and guide them in creating their own version.

panels

Invite professors and students to participate in panels showcasing their disciplines.

share resources

Share collections with local public libraries, such as news archives or political cartoons.

public talks

Collaborate with student organizations to present talks on academic freedom and cultural difference.

display special collections

Display relevant collections the academic community rarely has an opportunity to appreciate.

The September Project is a grassroots effort to foster public events in all communities on September 11.

For more information, please contact:

David Silver & Sarah Washburn, Co-directors, The September Project

info@theseptemberproject.org

Generously supported by:

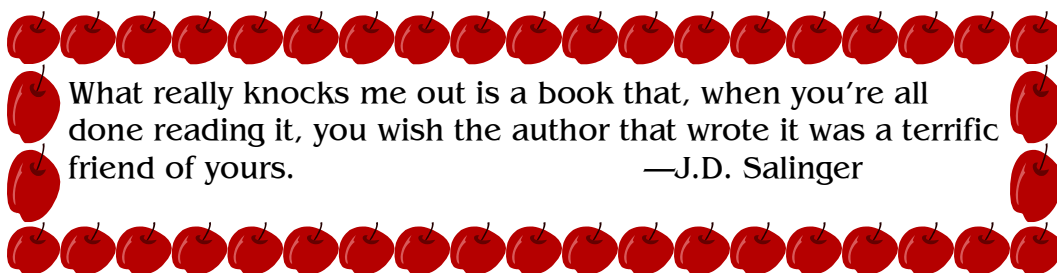
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